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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A handheld computing device comprising:
  - 2 a processing unit having a communication interface, the
  - 3 processing unit including a first communication interface for
  - 4 communication with a visual display unit; and
  - 5 a detachable visual display unit, the detachable visual display
  - 6 unit communicatively coupled to the first communication interface by a
  - 7 second communication interface;
  - 8 wherein an identifier indicia is passed by the second
  - 9 communication interface to the processing unit via the first
  - 10 communication interface to indicate to the processing unit the properties
  - 11 of the detachable visual display unit.
1. 2. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the first
- 2 communication interface includes a wireless communication interface.
1. 3. The handheld computing device of claim 1 wherein the
- 2 detachable visual display unit includes a flat, rigid display.
1. 4. The handheld computing device of claim 1 wherein the
- 2 detachable visual display unit includes a flexible display.
1. 5. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
- 2 detachable visual display unit is expandable.
1. 6. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
- 2 detachable visual display unit includes a cathode ray tube display.
1. 7. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
- 2 detachable visual display unit includes a LCD screen.

1        8. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the  
2 detachable visual display unit includes an electronic whiteboard.

1        9. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the  
2 detachable visual display unit is ruggedized.

1        10. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the  
2 detachable visual display unit is weather protected.

1        11. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the  
2 detachable visual display unit includes a backlit display.

1        12. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the  
2 detachable visual display unit includes a reflective display.

1        13. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the  
2 detachable visual display unit includes a monochrome display.

1        14. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the  
2 detachable visual display unit includes a color display.

1        15. A handheld computing device facilitating a detachable visual  
2 display unit comprising:  
3              a processing unit;  
4              a power source;  
5              a communication port for communicating with a detachable  
6 visual display unit.

1        16. The handheld computing device of claim 15, wherein the  
2 communication port is capable of receiving information representative of  
3 properties of the detachable visual display unit.

1        17. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the  
2 communication port receives information representative of the detachable  
3 visual display unit properties based on at least one identifier pin  
4 associated with the detachable visual display unit.

1        18. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the  
2 communication port receives information representative of the detachable  
3 visual display unit properties based on an identifier signal transmitted by  
4 the detachable visual display unit.

1        19. The handheld computing device of claim 15, wherein the  
2 processing unit includes a plurality of display drivers utilized based on the  
3 information representative of the properties of the detachable visual  
4 display unit.

1        20. The handheld computing device of claim 15, wherein the  
2 communication port includes a wireless transceiver.

1        21. The handheld computing device of claim 20, wherein the  
2 wireless transceiver communicates using the Bluetooth wireless network  
3 protocol.

1        22. A visual display unit for a handheld computing device, the  
2 visual display unit comprising:  
3              a housing detachable from the handheld computing device;  
4              a display screen; and  
5              a communication interface including an identifier indicia to  
6 indicate to a handheld computing device the properties of the visual  
7 display unit.

1        23. The visual display unit of claim 22, wherein the visual display  
2 unit is foldable to present a larger or smaller display screen.

1        24. The visual display unit of claim 23, wherein the visual display  
2 unit includes an apparatus to anchor the visual display unit to the  
3 handheld computing device.

1        25. The visual display unit of claim 22, wherein the display  
2 screen is color.

1        26. A method of displaying data from a handheld computing  
2 device, comprising:

3              detecting the properties of a detachable visual display unit  
4 communicatively coupled to the handheld computing device;  
5              updating display drivers based on the detachable visual  
6 display unit properties detected; and  
7              transmitting data from the handheld computing device to the  
8 communicatively coupled detachable visual display unit.

1        27. The method of claim 26, wherein detecting the properties of  
2 a detachable visual display unit includes receiving a signal transmitted by  
3 the detachable visual display unit.

1        28. The method of claim 26, further comprising:  
2              bringing the detachable visual display unit into  
3 communication with the handheld computer device.

1        29. The method of claim 28, further comprising:  
2              detaching the detachable visual display unit from the  
3 handheld computing device.